

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CG, US, PPDC, EAD

SUBJECT:MOBUTU LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER

1. FOLLOWING IS DEPARTMENT TRANSLATION OF MOBUTU LETTER
TO PRESIDENT CARTER WHICH FONMIN UMBA DELIVERED DURING
HIS MEETING MARCH 3 WITH DR. BRZEZINSKI AND DAVID AARON:

QUOTE KINSHASA, FEBRUARY 20, 1978

MR. PRESIDENT:

KNOWING THE INTEREST THAT YOU HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN IN THE
REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE, AND IN THE NAME OF THE FRIENDSHIP THAT
LINKS OUR TWO PEOPLES, I AM WRITING TO YOUR EXCELLENCY
AT A DECISIVE MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF MY COUNTRY, WHICH
IS EXPERIENCING A DIFFICULT SITUATION, PARTICULARLY IN
THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL FIELD.

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THE WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS, THE PERSISTENTLY LOW PRICE OF
COPPER--OUR MAIN EXPORT RESOURCE--AND THE SEMILANDLOCKED
NATURE OF ZAIRE, WHICH IS PREVENTED BY THE CURRENT
INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION FROM USING FOREIGN
TRANSPORTATION ROUTES, ARE SOME OF THE CAUSES OF THE

DIFFICULT SITUATION WE ARE EXPERIENCING.

TO COPE WITH THIS SITUATION I HAVE DEVISED A SHORT-TERM RECOVERY AND REGENERATION PLAN, THE MAINPOINTS OF WHICH ONE OF MY PRINCIPAL ASSISTANTS, THE BEARER OF THIS LETTER, WILL BE HONORED TO EXPLAIN TO YOU.

I SHOULD LIKE TO STRESS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT HOWEVER GREAT OUR EFFORTS AND GOOD WILL IN IMPLEMENTING THIS RECOVERY PLAN, THE ENORMITY OF THE TASK FORCES US TO CALL UPON THE ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION OF OUR GOOD FRIENDS.

AT MY REQUEST BELGIUM HAS AGREED TO ENSURE COORDINATION OF CONTACTS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH COUNTRIES THAT ARE OUR FRIENDS, AND WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, WITH REGARD TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS JOINT ENDEAVOR.

FURTHERMORE, THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND, WHICH HAS ALWAYS GIVEN US ITS ASSISTANCE, WILL ONCE AGAIN HELP US AND PLAY WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS EFFORT.

I GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR EXCELLENCY'S SPECIAL INTEREST IN STRENGTHENING OUR RELATIONS AND I SHOULD BE HAPPY
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TO CONTINUE TO COUNT ON YOUR INVALUABLE HELP, ESPECIALLY ON THIS OCCASION.

I MUST ADD, HOWEVER, THAT IN MY OPINION THE CURRENT CONTACTS INITIATED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS EMERGENCY PLAN SHOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT ONGOING OR SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES OF PREVIOUS BILATERAL COOPERATION.

I WANT TO THANK YOUR EXCELLENCY IN ADVANCE FOR ANY FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO THIS REQUEST AND I AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, THE ASSURANCES OF MY VERY HIGH CONSIDERATION.

GENERAL MOBUTU SESE SEKO KUKU NGBENDU WA ZA BANGA
UNQUOTE.

2. ENCRYPTED FOR TRANSMISSION. DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT.
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